



INDIAN

CRIME



Dr. Jim Pankiw, MP

For years the federal government and Indian lobbyists have deliberately ignored evidence which proves why there is a greater percentage of Indians in jail than in general society.

The truth of the matter is that the proportion of Indians serving time in Canadian penitentiaries is a direct reflection of the crimes they commit. Indeed, a 1993 report prepared by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics - along with numerous other government reports - show conclusively that the crime rate for Indians is significantly higher than that of non-Indians.

Unfortunately, in this age of political correctness, truth about the situation has become a casualty as politicians refuse to confront the problem. So, the federal Liberal government is intent on turning a blind eye to Indian crime in our communities by implementing a two-tier justice system - essentially giving Indians a 'get-out-of-jail-card'.

My ability to "tell it like it is" on behalf of constituents greatly depends on your support, help and input. Please take a few moments to review this information and complete the survey.

Sincerely,

DR. JIM PANKIW, MP

TWO-TIER JUSTICE IS RACISM

*Criminal Code section 718.2(e): all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, **with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders.***

FACTS ABOUT INDIAN CRIME

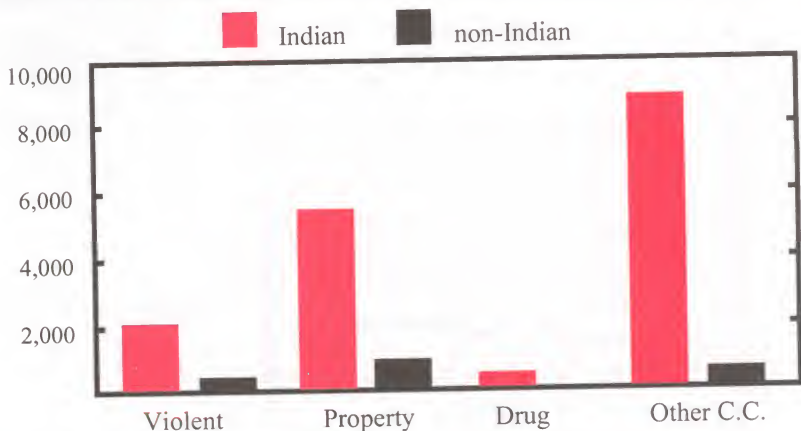
- ▶ Government reports have consistently shown that a higher proportion of Indian than non-Indian accused were reported to have been impaired through alcohol and/or drugs at the time an offence was committed.*
- ▶ Prior to the race-based sentencing provisions of 718.2(e) being enacted, Indians were already receiving shorter sentences than non-Indian offenders charged with comparable offences. **
- ▶ Significantly higher crime rates within Indian communities and among Indians in non-Indian communities is the principal reason behind the incarceration rate of Indians.***

Your opinion matters

Let me know what you think about lenient race-based sentencing provisions for Indians, and whether the criminal justice system should be restored to one based on principles of equality for all Canadians. You can do this by filling out the response form to the right.

THE PROBLEM IN SASKATCHEWAN

CRIME RATES PER 100,000 - BY OFFENCE, SASKATOON, 1990



The crime rate for Indians was **ten and one-half times** that of non-Indians*

POPULATION & REPORTED CRIME BY RACE, REGINA, 1990-1991



Population

Indian
non-Indian



Crime



Indians represented 5% of Regina's population, but were charged with 43% of all drug related or Criminal Code offences in 1990/91 *

* Statistics Canada, Police-Reported Aboriginal Crime in Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon. (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1993)

**Carol La Prairie: Examining Aboriginal Corrections in Canada (Solicitor General of Canada, 1996)

*** Canada, Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Bridging the Cultural Divide: A Report on Aboriginal People and Criminal Justice in Canada. (Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1996)

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VOICES...

(... FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT INDIAN SENTENCING THAT YOU WON'T READ IN STAR-PHOENIX EDITORIALS)

"Parliament should repeal differential sentencing. The Supreme Court should return to first principles: Offenders should be sentenced in proportion to the severity of the offence with a view to ensuring parity in punishment. And everyone should be equal before the law."
Ottawa Citizen Editorial - April 4, 2002

"Criminals should not be sentenced on the basis of statistics or skin colour. Nor is the criminal justice system biased against natives. Natives may suffer a higher rate of incarceration, but they also commit disproportionately more crime than all other ethnic groups. Dealing natives what are effectively get-out-of-jail-free-cards merely lowers the cost of going to prison for native criminals..."

National Post Editorial - June 28, 1999 pg. A 19

"Clearly, there is a problem with the disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal people in prison, but the available evidence overwhelmingly suggests that these individuals did not get there through discrimination at the sentencing stage, nor because judges used incarceration inappropriately."

P. Stenning & J. Roberts, *Empty Promises: Parliament, The Supreme Court, and the Sentencing of Aboriginal Offenders* (Saskatchewan Law Review 64: 137-68 no. 1 2001) at 151

**IF YOU CAN'T
DO THE TIME...**



CP(SHANEY KOMULAINEN)

INDIAN TERRORIST CONFRONTS CANADIAN SOLDIER AT OKA, 1990.

**... THEN DON'T
DO THE CRIME!**